

Appl. No. 10/768,271
Amdt. Dated April 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 10, 2006

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 1, kept claims 2-14 unchanged, has canceled claims 19-22; and has added claim 23. No new matter is entered.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 1-3, 5-7, 10, 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohkawa (US 6,671,013B1).

In response to the rejection, Applicant has amended claim 1, and hereby otherwise traverses the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 10, 11 and 15.

As regards independent claim 1, Applicant hereby respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons:

Claim 1, as currently amended, recites, in part:

“wherein a plurality of substantially triangular scatter enhancing regions is defined on the bottom surface adjacent to the light sources, and sizes of the diffusion dots in the scatter enhancing regions are larger than that of the diffusion dots in a remaining region of the bottom surface adjacent to the scatter enhancing regions.” (Emphasis added).

Ohkawa (US 6,671,013B1) discloses (Column 6 lines 11-14) that the projections 20 are distributed in a density (covering rate) getting larger gradually, according to increasing distance from the incidence face 12. FIGS. 3a and 3b of Ohkawa illustrate different distribution density between area A relatively near to the incidence face 20 and area B relatively far from the incidence face 20. However, Ohkawa fails to disclose or otherwise

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suggest that THE SIZES of the individual dots in the scatter enhancing /darker regions ARE LARGER THAN those of the diffusion dots in a remaining region of the bottom surface adjacent to the scatter enhancing regions.

In fact, the individual diffusion dots of Ohkawa, as presented in various Figures, all appear to be approximately the same size. In addition, in the Ohkawa's reference, "formation density" (i.e. covering rate) is defined as follows:

Covering rate=Cross section of projection cut along a general plane of the back face $14/(\text{formation pitch})^2$ (column 6, lines 18-20).

"Density-covering rate gets gradually larger", as interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art, doesn't necessarily mean that "the sizes of dots in the scatter enhancing /darker regions ARE LARGER THAN those of the diffusion dots in a remaining region of the bottom surface adjacent to the scatter enhancing regions."

In other words, Ohkawa's reference is silent about and fails to expressly or inherently disclose or suggest that "the sizes of the dots in the scatter enhancing /darker regions ARE LARGER THAN those of the diffusion dots in a remaining region of the bottom surface adjacent to the scatter enhancing regions".

Therefore, Applicant submits that Ohkawa '013, taken alone or in combination with any of the other cited references, fails to teach or suggest the surface light source unit set forth in claim 1, as currently amended. Claim 1, as currently amended, is thus submitted to be in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim are respectfully requested.

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Claims 2-7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 depend from claim 1. Applicant hereby submits that claims 2-7, 10, 11, 14, and 15 are in condition for allowance, the allowance of which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkawa (US 6,671,013) in view of Ishikawa (US 5,921,651).

Claim 4 depends directly from claim 1, which is in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 4 is now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 9, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkawa (US 6,671,013) and Ohkawa (US 6,755,546).

Claims 8, 9, 12 and 13 depend directly from claim 1, which is in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 8, 9, 12 and 13 are now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkawa (US 6,671,013).

Claim 14 depends directly from claim 1, which is in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 14 is now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which is

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hereby respectfully requested.

With further respect to claim 14, Applicant submits that Ohkawa '013, by the Examiner's own admission, teaches away from modifying the display device disclosed thereby so as to further provide a prism sheet. In paragraph 7 in page 5 of the present Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Ohkawa does not provide a prism sheet, and virtually he discloses a light guide plate that cancels any "particular need" for a prism sheet. In weighing the suggestive power of Ohkawa '013 (MPEP §2143.01), one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to modify Ohkawa '013 to provide a prism sheet. As such, Applicant submits that claim 14 is not rendered obvious by Ohkawa '013, whether taken alone or in combination with any of the other cited references.

Claims 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkawa (US 6,671,013) in view of Ishikawa (US 5,921,651).

In response to the rejection, Applicant has canceled claims 19-22. Thus, the rejection is now moot.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that new claim 23 is supported by, e.g., the Figures and defines over the art of record. Specifically, claim 23 recites in part:

"a bottom surface opposite to the emission surface, the bottom surface having a plurality of scatter enhancing regions located proximate the light incidence surface; and

a plurality of diffusion dots formed on the bottom surface for scattering the light beams, the bottom surface having a first group of

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diffusion dots comprised of those diffusion dots located within the scatter enhancing regions and a second group of diffusion dots comprised of those diffusion dots located outside the scatter enhancing regions, the sizes of the diffusion dots in the first group being larger than those of the diffusion dots in the second group.” (Emphasis added.)

Applicant submits that such a surface light source, as set forth in claim 23, is neither taught nor suggested by any of the cited references, taken alone or in combination.

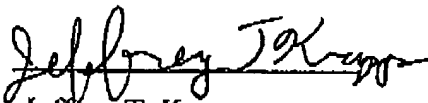
Applicant further notes that the additional references cited in the Office Action are described by the Examiner as teachings of the concept of an increase in size of diffusion dots with increasing distance from the light incidence surface and/or light sources. Applicant submits that such teachings are completely dichotomous to the present surface light source, in which the larger dots are generally close to the light incidence surface. As such, these additional references fail to overcome any of the shortcomings associated with Ohkawa (US 6,671,013).

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In view of the foregoing, the present application as defined in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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